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# Community Service

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## First Aid

*Teacher in charge: Mrs K Cobbing*

Boys are encouraged to take the basic and more advanced first aid courses offered by St John Ambulance. Boys who complete these courses then serve as first aiders at sports matches, particularly at hockey and rugby in the winter term. In doing so, they play an essential role in the sporting life of the school, as no rugby match may take place without a first aid team in attendance and hockey injuries are usually severe.

The senior boys play an active role in running the club and take charge of the first aid for a game, guided by staff and with the assistance of paramedics.

As well as gaining a valuable life skill that they may need to use in the future, the boys may use their first aid certificates to fulfil their Life Orientation portfolio requirement. They can also use first aid as a skill (with 6 – 8 hours service) or for service hours when completing their Presidents Award.

## President's Award

*Teacher in charge:*

This is a youth empowerment programme that is modelled on The Duke of Edinburgh's Award where participants become involved in a variety of activities that promote self-development.

There are three different levels: Bronze (14yrs), Silver (15yrs) and Gold (16yrs), with each level requiring progressively increasing demands to complete. For each award, participants have to complete requirements in four sections, namely: service; expeditions; skills & interest; physical recreation.

For the Gold Award, a residential project involving nights away from home is also required.

The criterion for gaining an Award is individual improvement through persistence and achievement. College has a fine tradition of involvement in this internationally recognised programme and many boys have been proud recipients of these awards. A Gold Award is regarded highly by universities and scholarship committees.

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# General Interest

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## Chess

*Teacher in charge: Mr X Jonono*

The Chess Club is open to all. It meets every week on Fridays at 7 pm in K14. The purpose of the Chess Club is to promote knowledge and enjoyment of the game. All members are placed on a chess ladder, and are expected to struggle towards the top. Matches are arranged against other schools and clubs, and visiting players attend some meetings.

## Copernicans

*Teacher in charge: Mr A Maffessanti*

Copernicans is open to any boy in Grades 9 - 11. Two formal meetings will be held per term with additional outings being arranged on an *ad hoc* basis throughout the year.

The society is a broad-based forum, aimed at heightening and diversifying members' knowledge of the world in which we live. Meetings will delve into a varied range of topics – scientific, technological, philosophical, cultural and humanitarian. Members are encouraged, but not obligated, to deliver brief presentations on topics of personal interest.

## Current Affairs Discussion Group

*Teacher in charge: Mrs C Chandler*

This group meets once a week during the Quiet Period to discuss matters that are of current concern or interest in today's world. We frequently watch a video or read a short article to stimulate discussion. The meetings last for an hour and are open to boys of all grades.

## Debating

*Teacher in charge: Mr D Molony*

The reputation of the St Andrew's Debating Society is growing locally, nationally & internationally. Members of this society acquire the following

skills: to speak in public with confidence and persuasive flair; to be able to adjudicate debates; to think on their feet and to deal with challenges from opposition speakers; to construct logical arguments, substantiated by facts and relevant examples; to listen critically to others' speeches, being able to analyze the relative strengths and weaknesses of the arguments presented; to increase their general knowledge of current issues and world affairs; to refine their research skills in preparing for debates; to be able to think dispassionately about emotional issues, thereby increasing their personal tolerance for views opposed to their own; to be able to handle pressure; and, above all, to HAVE GREAT FUN in the process!

The Debating Society has two fixed sessions per week. One session is geared towards development and training of a selected 'squad' of debaters, and Friday evenings is when skills are put into practice in debates against other schools, league debates, etc. While the Society welcomes all, a measure of selection takes place for entry into the 'squad' as commitment and regular training is essential if an experienced group of debaters is to develop.

The Debating Calendar is filled with events ranging from internal debates, debates against other schools, league debates, tournaments & festivals, provincial and national championships using the 'World Schools' debating style. In addition, we also enter teams in national and international Model United Nations debating competitions as well as 'Moot Court' competitions where competitors are required to argue for and against various (often constitutional) issues.

**Please note:** a yearly levy is charged to assist the covering of incidental expenses.

## **Design and Technology Club**

*Teacher in charge: Mr K van Winkel*

The Design and Technology Club is open to any student enrolled at SAC or DSG. Its sole purpose is to provide for a dedicated time in which students may design and construct personal projects for their own private use, with a wide range of materials, under controlled conditions and with the assistance of competent and qualified staff. Projects may take many forms and in the past have included full size off-road vehicles, music systems, tables and cupboards, sculptures, robotics and electronic devices, CD racks, surfing devices, kites,

remote-controlled yachts and ceramic objects. The overall aim is to expose students to the wonders of design as a vehicle for change and for improving one's overall quality of life. Students join the Club for a period of one year at a time with registration taking place at the beginning of each academic year. The club holds a proud record of innovative design and individual skills development and is very popular choice. All members of the club qualify to earn points towards various awards such as the Proficiency Tie Award, the Presidents Award and a CEMA Award. They also qualify for selection for the yearly award of school prizes.

## **Dramatic Society**

*Teacher in charge: Mr A Smith*

This is not a society in the usual sense, in that we do not have pupils as office bearers running the show. Nevertheless, we are very active and stage several productions during the course of the year. These include a play for seniors, in conjunction with DSG (known as the School Play), a musical, a junior play, and House plays. In addition, boys are encouraged to write scripts and to mount productions and this does happen from time to time.

(Speech and Drama is offered as a school subject, and pupils studying Drama are usually also involved in several productions as part of their course work.)

## **Student Christian Association (SCA)**

*Teachers in Charge: Fr G Griffith-Smith & Mr S Kroon*

This is open to all students. We meet once a week to share a time of fellowship, discuss a Bible passage or chapter or watch a DVD. The boys are encouraged to participate and lead a discussion or study. We also pray for our School and community.

## **Weights Club**

*Teacher in charge:*

The gym is open to all pupils, juniors and seniors (seniors have certain after-hour privileges). Pupils must be a member of the club in order to make use of the facilities. A termly levy is charged.

## **Wine Tasting Club**

*Teacher in charge: Mr A Maffessanti*

An appreciation of and a respect for wine is a valuable skill in social circles. Cultivar, vintage, bouquet maturation and terroir are a few of the technical terms that members in Grade 12 will learn about. In addition, the palate will be put to test as we taste and discuss the nose, colour and flavour of the wine. Wine aficionado's will be invited as guest speakers. Membership is limited.

## **X-Art**

*Teacher in charge:*

Club activities take place during Quiet Period in the Art Room, but on other afternoons as well by arrangement with the Art teacher. This club is for any boys wishing to pursue any suitable Art or Craft project, for example, silkscreen printing, paper maché, masks, wirework, painting and drawing.

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## **Closed Societies**

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### **Alchemists**

*Teacher in charge: Mr T Barnard*

Alchemists is a closed society of approximately 14 senior students (boys and girls) who meet on Sunday evenings twice a term to discuss matters of general, non-scientific interest. Members take turns to present papers and lead discussion on topics of their own choice. The level and tenor of the discussions is mature and serious, without being stuffy. Meetings are held at Mr Barnard's home and include refreshments. Each year's members are invited by the teacher-in-charge, in consultation with the outgoing members.

## **Astronomers**

*Teacher in charge: Mr A Smith*

This is a closed society in which 6 Grade 11 boys and 6 Grade 12 boys meet 6 times a year. At each meeting, one of the Grade 11 boys presents a paper of a scientific nature to the club which is discussed over supper.

## **Cornish**

*Teacher in charge: Mr A Renard*

This society is made up of a selected group of boys who share a love of poetry. The group meets twice a term to discuss the works of international and local poets, or to share their own work. Guests are frequently invited and like-minded DSG pupils join us on these occasions.

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## **Music**

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### **Chamber Choir**

*Conductor: Ms D Holder*

The membership of this choir is closed, usually with a total not exceeding 15. Prospective members have to audition for the available places and must be senior students (Grade 10 – 12), have choral experience, be good singers and must be able to sight read to some degree.

The choir meets twice weekly, on a Wednesday evening and from 10:15 to 11:10 on a Thursday. A variety of music is sung, including unaccompanied (*a capella*) and accompanied, sacred and secular. Choir members are encouraged to run their own part practices, to take occasional solos and to be part of the annual auditions. A choir head is elected each year. The level of commitment expected is high. “True commitment is when the going gets tough” (like during exams and on hot Thursday break times).

Because the group is fairly small, versatile and very transportable, it gets asked to sing at various events. Members may be awarded Colours and Half Colours, if they have met all the criteria.

## **Chapel Choir**

*Conductor: Mrs M Carver*

Any keen singers are welcome to audition for the Chapel Choir. It is a big choir and there are two practices a week, one part practice and one full practice. It is a boys only choir, but it joins with the DSG Chapel Choir for special occasions. The two choirs sing together at several important events during the year, at special festival services in the Cathedral and during Arts Week and Prize Giving. However the main role of the choir is to lead the worship in chapel. Service to the Choir can lead to CEMA awards, and either Merit or Colours for Chapel Choir.

## **The Rock Band**

*Teacher in charge: Mr M Sabine*

This six piece ensemble was started in 2009 and includes students from both DSG and SAC. The members of the group are chosen through auditions and meet twice a week on a Monday and Wednesday from 17h30 to 18h30. The instruments involved are: vocals, bass guitar, keyboard, drum kit, rhythm guitar and lead guitar. In addition, there are two technical crew members who help with the sound reinforcement requirements. The Band aims to play a variety of Rock music, usually with a slightly hard vintage edge.

## **Marimba Group**

*Conductor: Mrs M Carver*

The marimba group meets once a week. They do not have to read music or have any previous experience playing instruments. The group practises to build up numbers that can be played for special occasions.

# **Pipe Band**

*Teacher in Charge: Mr S Ellis*

Started in 1938, the College Pipe Band is probably the oldest school pipe band in the country. The band wears the Graham of Montrose tartan.

The band functions as the cadet band, playing for the school's normal cadet parades, which include a Retreat Ceremony on Speech Day, and a parade into town for Remembrance Sunday. In addition, the band is sometimes asked to play at other functions; and when the standard is sufficiently high, the band may travel away to compete at competitions around the country.

**Pipers:** Aspiring pipers are initially taught to play the bagpipe by a current member of the band. Once they graduate into the band itself, their teaching is taken over by the Piping Tutor. The length of time it takes for a learner to graduate into the band depends almost entirely on how much time he devotes to practising the instrument. As a very rough guide, if a learner spends only 15 minutes a day, it will take him at least 2 years to get into the band. Devoting half an hour a day will shorten this to perhaps 9 months. Really hard-working learners have been known to reach this stage in 2 months, but this is very rare. Real proficiency on the instrument follows only after a considerable period of time. Most pipers have the opportunity to play in individual piping competitions, and over the years many boys from College have been very successful in solo piping events.

**Drummers** fall into 2 categories – side drummers and bass section. Bass section players (bass or tenor) learn the basics very quickly – thereafter playing in the bass section becomes very boring unless the drummer makes an effort to develop his flourishing and learns to fit his rhythms to the music. He needs to make something of it himself.

Pipe Band side drumming is a highly developed form of drumming, with very involved technique, and as with piping, real expertise requires considerable effort. Side drummers are taught by the Drumming Tutor.

Band practice times are as follows:

1. Learners arrange individual lessons with their teachers – usually done on a one-to-one basis, or at most in groups of two learners. These usually happen during Quiet Period, or immediately after supper, for 30 minutes.

2. Pipers (in the band) have a group practice for 45 minutes in an evening after supper.
3. Side drummers (in the band) have a group practice by arrangement with the Drumming Tutor.
4. Full band practices take place on Tuesdays during Cadets (15h00 - 15h55) and Thursdays at break time (10h15 - 11h10).

It must be stressed that boys joining the band are expected to make a considerable commitment, in time, but more particularly in attitude. Learning to play the pipes or side drum requires self-discipline. Joining the band is not something that can be done as an occasional pastime – once a boy is in the band, he is expected to work hard at his skill level, and to strive for perfection. Boys interested in joining the Pipe Band should consider carefully what other activities they are also interested in, as many extra-mural activities happen at the same time. Joining the Pipe Band means making a regular commitment. This is not for the fickle or the faint-hearted!

## **Senior Orchestra**

*Conductor: Mr J Pretorius*

The Senior Orchestra is made up of a large strings, woodwind, brass and percussion. The group practices twice a week in the cultural time slot from 17h30 to 18h30. The orchestra plays a wide range of music, from classic to pop, as well as music that is especially composed for it. It regularly performs with other Music School ensembles, for example the choirs, rock band or pipe band. Highlights of the year are the annual tour and the Balloon Week activities in the third term, but the orchestra also performs at other events both at school and at other venues in Grahamstown.

## **Wind Orchestra**

*Conductor: Mr R van Heerden*

Any woodwind or brass instrumentalist who can play with an approximate standard equivalent to ABRSM or Trinity Grade 3 is eligible to begin their probation in this group. There are also percussion posts. At various points in

the first two terms, a probationers' test will be given: if the instrumentalist passes he then qualifies as a full member of the orchestra. The orchestra plays music from a variety of different styles and is part of the annual tours. It performs at numerous concerts and special occasions during the year and also regularly joins the Senior Orchestra to form a philharmonic sized orchestra. Rehearsals are every Tuesday and Thursday at 17h30 – 18h30.

## **Chapel Singers**

*Master in Charge: J Pretorius*

The activities of this group are mainly focused on the enrichment and enhancement of music and singing in Chapel. This new group will play an important role in the quality of hymn singing at SAC and is representative of boys in all 6 houses. This group also acts as feeder for the Chapel Choir. The Chapel Singers practice for 45 min each week.

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## **Recreational Outdoor Activities**

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### **Introduction**

A wide variety of recreational outdoor activities and educational programmes are offered at College, many on an informal basis. You are encouraged to participate in these activities; watch the Daily Notice and the Kettlewell noticeboard for details.

Most of the activities are not free and you must check with your parents in this regard when a cost is attached to an outing. Payment for the activities that are run by independent companies need to be made directly by the participant to the company involved. We will, however, try our best to contain the costs.

These activities usually take place on some Sundays and must not take precedence over your regular normal school sporting and cultural commitments.

A number of staff run **these** activities and they have to organize them around their other school commitments. There has to be some flexibility in organization and you need to bear this in mind, as none of these activities are ever guaranteed. **The** staff would welcome suggestions from you about new activities that could be attempted, **and** they would also appreciate your willingness to become involved in organizing events.

## **Expeditions**

Major expeditions in the past have been arranged to: Kilimanjaro, Bali, Brandberg, Fish River Canyon, Mauritius, Mozambique, Uganda, the Okavango Swamps, Namibia, and Sodwana Bay. These usually take place during the holidays, and are organised based on demand and availability of staff.

In the Eastern Cape region, expeditions and outings have been made to Hobbiton-on-Hogsback, the Baviaanskloof, Tiffendale Ski Resort, and to local game reserves.

## **Outdoor Sports which can be organised depending on availability and demand.**

Staff have organised opportunities in the past for boys to participate in activities such as white water rafting, river tubing, bungee jumping, and skydiving, time permitting. These activities are the exception rather than the norm, and staff availability, time constraints and sufficient numbers of participants are important considerations in arranging such outings.

## **Exploration Activities**

### **Cycling**

*Teacher in charge: Mr A Maffessanti*

Both road and mountain bike trips can be organised during the afternoons mid-week and the mornings at weekends. You need to have your own bike or access to a bike.

## **Salt Water Angling**

*Teacher in charge: Mr NA Bouwer*

Regular saltwater outings take place most weekends. Popular destinations are Cannon Rocks, the College Shack near Oyster Bay, and overnight camping trips to the Kariega River ( $\pm 6$ km from the river mouth on the Galpin's farm).

## **Fresh Water Fishing and Flyfishing**

*Teacher in charge: Mr A Ferreira*

Flyfishing courses have been organised in the past and freshwater and flyfishing outings can be arranged to local farm dams and the Fish River, as well as to flyfishing venues further away by arrangement.

## **Hiking**

*Teacher in charge: Mrs K Cobbing*

Hikes in the Grahamstown district and beyond can be organised by arrangement.

## **Scuba diving**

*Teacher in charge: Ms M Potgieter*

SSI-affiliated (equivalent to NAUI and PADI) scuba diving courses (Open Water 1, Advanced Diver and Rescue Diver qualifications) which are recognized worldwide are offered through an excellent dive school in Port Alfred. They provide all equipment and professional tuition and supervision. Trips will be irregular, as diving is always subject to sea conditions, and there is the possibility of weekend or holiday trips to diving destinations further away, such as Sodwana Bay

## **Surfing**

*Teacher in charge: Mr M Witthuhn*

The vision of the Surf Club is to try and encourage and promote awareness of this healthy, energetic, beautiful lifestyle of the art of surfing. The club welcomes beginners and experienced surfers to join, and to have fun learning and surfing the waves. The waves most likely to be ridden are Port Alfred and Kenton. These surf trips will mainly be undertaken between the months of April and August when the wind, swell direction and surf conditions are more favourable. Special weekend surf performance camps can be arranged to East London, Plettenberg Bay, Jeffreys Bay or Cape St Francis. The aim of these camps is to assess the surfers' mental, physical and performance ability. This will be done by the Surf Master.

The Surf Master has over 30 years of knowledge and experience in surfing, tour guiding, judging, contest directing, totalising, coaching and managing at National level.

The mission of the Surf Club is to improve the fitness levels of the surfers, to learn and gain respect of the ocean and surf etiquette, and to respect each other as an individual and as a sports person. All surfers are to supply their own surfboards, bodyboards, wetsuits and surfing accessories.